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JAPANESE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

CASE, PLASTIC, MALARIAL PROPHYLACTIC

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MEDICAL ANALYSIS SECTION
5250th Technical Intelligence Company
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24, January 1946.

Case, Plastic, Malarial Prophylactic

SOURCE: Tokyo, Japan.

IMPORTANCE: Not previously reported.

DESCRIPTION: This case is made of thin, light tan colored plastic and is $5/8$ " deep with a diameter of $2\ 1/4$ ". The top screws on to the main part of the case. The case itself is divided into a large and a small section by a thin plastic partition $3/8$ " high and $1\ 1/2$ " long. The main part of the case is covered by transparent plastic with a small ($3/8$ " diameter) and a large ($9/16$ " diameter) dispensing hole in it.

The Japanese characters on the cover of the case are interpreted as follows:

Prophylactic for Malaria

Caution:

1. Keep strictly the military discipline for prevention of malaria.
2. Take this (these) prophylactic tablets surely (faithfully) and you will not suffer from malaria.

How to take this (these) tablets:

1. Take one tablet of the bigger one (tablet of Quinine Sulfate) every day.
2. In addition to it, you must take one tablet of the smaller one (tablets plasmochin) every 10 days.

The Japanese characters on the transparent plastic cover read:

"Tablets of Quinine Sulfate - 30 tablets"

"The other tablets - 6 tablets"

COMMENT: This item indicates that the Japanese used both quinine and plasmochin combined as malarial suppressive therapy. The amount of the drug carried was sufficient for 30 days suppressive therapy with quinine and 60 days suppressive therapy with plasmochin. It is probable that the quinine tablets were 5 grains and the plasmochin 21 milligrams as those are the usual sizes of these Japanese products.

According to Stitt, "Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Tropical Disease, prophylactic therapy with plasmochin is inadequate unless the drug is used dangerously near the toxic limit which is not the case here. Furthermore, the usual accepted, adequate prophylactic dose of quinine is 15 grains and the probable daily dose here is 5 grains. It is possible that the Japanese have a partial racial resistance to malarial infection which would make this dose adequate for their malarial suppressive therapy.

It is interesting to note that suppressive therapy was left to the individual soldier who was issued this prophylactic case of quinine and plasmochin.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Fig. 1 Case, plastic, malarial prophylactic.



Fig. 1 -- Case, plastic, malarial prophylactic.